

MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

U.S. Embassy, Manila, The Philippines

April 4, 2013

South Carolina to Hold Special Election for First Congressional District

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – South Carolina will hold a special election for U.S. House District 1 on Tuesday, May 7, to fill the seat vacated by former Representative Tim Scott due to his recent appointment to the United States Senate. The 1st Congressional District consists of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Dorchester Counties.

South Carolina requires the completion of a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) every year. Participation in the 2012 Presidential election will not trigger a ballot being sent for this election. Any military or overseas voter that did not register to vote in the Primary and has not submitted a 2013 FPCA but wants to participate in this election needs to complete a new FPCA by Saturday, April 6, 2013.

You can register to vote and/or request an absentee ballot using the South Carolina's Electronic Voting Accessibility Tool (EVAT) found on their State Election Commission website:

http://www.scvotes.org/2008/08/11/military_overseas_citizens

You can also use the FPCA found at: www.FVAP.gov and submit the application electronically, or by mail or fax, to your local election official. A listing of contact information can be found here: <https://www.fvap.gov/r3/jurisdictions/SC>.

If you are concerned about not receiving your ballot in time to vote for the May 7 special election, you can go to <http://www.fvap.gov/ballot/ballot-sc.html> and fill out the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB). If you receive your state ballot after submitting the FWAB, vote and return the state ballot as well, and the state ballot will be counted and the FWAB will be disregarded. The FWAB is also available in embassies, consulates and military installations around the world.

You can track the status of your ballot at:

<https://info.scvotes.sc.gov/eng/voterinquiry/VoterInformationRequest.aspx?PageMode=AbsenteeInfo>

Important Dates:

- Register to Vote - Saturday, April 6, 2013
- FPCA Ballot Request (if already registered to vote) - Monday, May 6, 2013
- Ballot Return (including the FWAB) - Election Day, May 7, 2013 by 7pm (EST)

For more information on FVAP or assistance with the absentee voting process, visit FVAP.gov, call FVAP at 1-800-438-VOTE or DSN 425-1584 (CONUS)/312-425-1584 (OCNUS), or email vote@fvap.gov. Remember, you also can contact your unit or installation voting assistance officers for assistance during any step of the process.

*[@Facebook.com/DoDFVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP)
[@FVAP](https://www.facebook.com/DoDFVAP)*

The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (632) 301-2000. American citizens needing to speak to the Embassy can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at ACSInfoManila@state.gov or through the [Embassy Facebook page](#). Please visit [our website](#) for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens travelling to our residing in the Philippines enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) program. Registering gives you access to updated information on travel and security within the Philippines and makes it easier for the Embassy to contact you in case of emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly at the nearest U.S. Embassy or consulate.

You can also stay up to date by bookmarking the [Department of State's website](#), which contains all current [Travel Warnings](#) and [Travel Alerts](#), as well as the current [Worldwide Caution](#). Please consult the [Country Specific Information on the Philippines](#), for general information about the Philippines. For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. Embassy for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. Current information on safety and security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444 for callers from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). You can also stay up to date by "following" us on [Twitter](#) and "liking" the Bureau of Consular Affairs on [Facebook](#). You can also download our free Smart Traveler App, available through [iTunes](#) and the [Android market](#), to have travel information at your fingertips.